

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02766 281610Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /078 W
-----281625Z 010346 /44

P R 281526Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9706
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
CINCUSAFE
USNMR SHAPE
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2766

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, TU, GR
SUBJECT: TURKISH MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN

REF: ATHENS 2710 (DTG 241457Z MAR 77)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE GREEK PRESS CARRIED VERY BRIEF, LOW-KEY REPORTS ON THE TURKISH AIR AND NAVAL EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, (FRIDAY, MARCH 25, GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY, WAS A HOLIDAY AND ONLY MORNING PAPERS APPEARED. BECAUSE OF THE HOLIDAY ONLY AFTERNOON PAPERS APPEARED ON SATURDAY AND ON SUNDAY, AS USUAL, THERE WERE ONLY MORNING PAPERS.) ALL REPORTS INDICATED THAT THE TURKISH EXERCISES CONTINUED TO TAKE PLACE AT A LOW LEVEL OF ACTIVITY AND WERE
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02766 281610Z

EXPECTED TO TERMINATE, AS SCHEDULED, TODAY (MARCH 28) WITH MOST NAVAL UNITS BEGINNING TO WITHDRAW FROM THE EXERCISE AREAS ON SUNDAY. THE PAPERS CONTINUED TO REPORT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO VIOLATIONS OF GREEK AIRSPACE OR TERRITORIAL WATERS DURING THE TURKISH EXERCISES. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT. AS INDICATED ABOVE, THE

GOG APPARENTLY COSE NOT TO PUBLICIZE OR MAKE ANYTHING OF THE ALLEGED VIOLATONS OF GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS ON MARCH 24 WHICH WE HAD BEEN INFORMED ABOUT (REFTEL). IT IS POSSIBLE, OF COURSE, THAT AFTER FURTHER STUDY OF THE EVIDENCE CONCERNING THESE VIOLATIONS THE GOG CONCLUDED THEY WERE NOT SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT MAKING AN ISSUE OF THEM. IN ANY CASE, AS WE HAVE BEEN REPORTING, THE GOG, THROUGH ITS BACKGROUNDING OF THE PRESS ON THE EXERCISES ALL LAST WEEK, WAS NON-PROVOCATIVE AND TRIED TO KEEP STORIES ABOUT THE EXERCISES FROM BECOMING ALARMIST.

3. THE NAVAL ATTACHE HAS NOW BEEN BRIEFED MORE FULLY ON THE EXERCISE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN MARCH 29 (ATHENS 2658). THIS WILL BE A JOINT AIR AND NAVAL EXERCISE INVOLVING ALSO AMPHIBIOUS FORCES. IT IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 29-APRIL 1 AND IS INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR PUBLISHED PROGRAM OF GREEK NAVAY EXERCISES. THIS EXERCISE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CENTRAL AEGEAN (BETWEEN THE ISLANDS OF SKYROS AND LESVOS) AND ALSO IN THE WESTERN AEGEAN OFF THE EASTERN COAST OF THE PELOPPONESUS. THE NAVAL ATTACHE WILL BE REPORTING ON THIS IN GREATER DETAIL THROUGH HIS CHANNELS. END CONFIDENTIAL.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, COMBINED MILITARY EXERCISES, AEGEAN SEA, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS02766
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770106-0009
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770317/aaaaaooi.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 15f039b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ATHENS 2710
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2982163
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN
TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, SOPN, TU, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/15f039b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009